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NEW POWER PLANTS OPERATING; OTHERS ARE PLANNED

POWER FACILITIES IN MACEDONIA -- Borba, No 182, 2 Aug 49

In 1939 only 15 kilowatt-hours of electric power were produced in Macedonia per capita, a figure about 4.5 times less than the Yugoslav average, and one of the lowest in Europe. Since the war Macedonian production has risen to 110 percent of the 1939 level in 1946, 130 percent in 1947, and 194 percent in 1938. Operation of the new thermoelectric power plant in Skoplje will raise the output to 59 kilowatt-hours per capita, or four times greater than before the war.

After the activation of the new Zrnovci hydroelectric power plant this year and of the Pesocani power plant next year, per-capita output will approach 100 kilowatt-hours.

Besides the Mavrovo hydrocombine and the Vrben, Sapuncica, Dosnica, and Nereza hydroelectric power plants now under construction in Macedonia, nearly 1,000 kilometers of new 110-volt and 35-volt power lines and a whole net of transformer and distributing stations are being built. In 1951, per-capita power production in Macedonia will reach 207 kilowatt-hours, or nearly 14 times the prewar figure.

The Mavrovo hydrocombine will be one of the largest power plants in Yugoslavia and the largest in Macedonia. It and the Vrben hydroelectric power plant, which will be connected with it, will have a combined capacity of 218,000 horsepower. A reservoir with an area of 13 square kilometers will be built at Mavrovo. The construction of the hydrocombine will involve the boring of a tunnel 30 kilometers long, a canal 50 kilometers long, 70 kilometers of auxiliary roads, and a siphon to bridge a pool over 100 meters wide and 250 meters deep. The waters of the Mavrovo River will be joined by the Radika, Belicica, and Jerovska rivers, and the course of the Vardar will be changed so as to permit the irrigation of the Vardar basin from Polosko Polje on. This power plant will contribute greatly to the exploitation of the chromium, lead, copper, kaolin and other mineral resources of Macedonia.

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kilowatts when both generators are in operation. The Matka hydroelectric power plant, with a capacity of a little over 3,000 kilowatts, is the only other well built, modern and dependable industrial power plant in operation in Macedonia. Even in the Matka plant, production falls during the summer months, when the water is low in the Treska River. The Skoplje plant will greatly improve the power situation.

The equipment of the Skoplje thermoelectric power plant is completely modern and ranks with that of the best and most modern Yugoslav thermoelectric power plants, such as the one at Trbovlje or at Belgrade. The transport of coal is semimechanized and the ashes are dumped hydraulically. The smoke is filtered so that the people of the district are not bothered by smoke and soot.

This plant covers an area of 2,900 square meters.

THERMOELECTRIC PLANT NOW IN OPERATION -- Borba, No 181, 1 Aug 49

The large thermoelectric power plant in the village of Madzari, near Skoplje, was put into operation on 1 August. Its construction was begun in 1946.

In October 1948, more than 30 fitters and some equipment arrived from Czechoslovakia, and the installation of the machinery and steam boilers began at once. Then defective parts and machines began to arrive, while other necessary parts were not delivered at all. Thus the power plant could not be finished and put into operation by 1 May, the original target date. Finally in June all the Czech fitters left the country.

After their departure, measuring instruments, parts for the equipment for transporting coal from the bins to the elevators, turbine equipment, low-tension electrical equipment, feed pumps, and water pumps had to be made in Yugoslav factories, and other machinery had to be repaired. Hot-air pipes and other parts for the boilers, cables, and other electrical equipment had to be made at the "Rade Koncar" plant. The "Tito" metal products factory, electrical installation enterprises in Ljubljana and Skoplje, and other plants also made parts and machinery that had not been delivered from Czechoslovakia.

NEW POWER PLANTS FOR MACEDONIA -- Politika, No 13309, 1 Aug 49

Among the large power plants now under construction in Macedonia are the "Dosnica" hydroelectric power plant, with a capacity of 4,700 horsepower, the "Sapuncica" hydroelectric power plant, with a capacity of 3,900 horsepower, the "Tesocani" hydroelectric power plant, with a capacity of 3,600 horsepower, and the still larger Mavrovo hydrocombine, "Zrnovci" hydroelectric power plant, and thermoelectric power plant in Skoplje.

On 1 August the great 6,000-horsepower thermoelectric power plant in Skoplje will begin to produce current.

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PLAN GREAT NERETVA SYSTEM - Rad No 178, 28 Jul 49

The system of hydroelectric power plants on Jablanica on the Neretva, one of the largest projects of the Five-Year Plan, will supply about a billion kilowatt-hours per year.

A great dam 80 meters high, already partly built, below the confluence of the Rama and the Neretva, will enclose an artificial lake containing 300 million cubic meters of water. It will be about 38 kilometers long, or more than seven times as long as lake Bohinj. The dam will be built deep into the bank of the Neretva and the foot of the Prenj and Cvrstnica mountains.

In the fall the Neretva is so swollen that it carries 50 times more water than in the summer.

A hydroelectric power plant of about the same capacity will be built on the Rama. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, this system will have half the capacity of all the hydroelectric and thermoelectric power plants in prewar Yugoslavia. Whereas before the war the plants used only about one-quarter of their capacity, the new plants will work all year round to fill the needs of the chemical and aluminum industries.

The two plants, when completed, will employ about 60 technicians and administrative personnel. To obtain the same amount of power from coal, about 10,000 persons would have to be employed in the thermoelectric power plant and in cutting and transporting coal.

The artificial lake will occupy 1,500 hectares of land, 1,000 of it arable, including towns with a present population of about 400 families. The reservoir will, however, supply water for irrigating the surrounding country.

A new standard-gauge railroad line is being built on the left bank of the Neretva to replace the 22-kilometer section of the Sarajevo-Mostar railroad, the road from Konjic to the mouth of the Rama, and the 10-kilometer section of the Rama-Prozor railroad that will be under water. The new line will actually shorten the distance by 12 kilometers. New roads better than the ones to be flooded will also be built.

Besides water, the Neretva carries about a million cubic meters of silt every year. Control measures will be taken in all the tributaries to prevent the accumulation of silt in the reservoir.

Besides the construction of the dam, which will contain 130,000 cubic meters of concrete, two tunnels to carry water temporarily from the construction site and the dam, five tunnels for surplus water, a highway bridge over the new dam, and a whole system of water gates at the dam will have to be built. One of the two temporary tunnels has been completed, and the other is two-thirds finished. Next month the river will flow through this tunnel, and work can be started on the small concrete dams that will wall off the great dam entirely from the river water. Foundations are already being cut in the side of the mountain for the great dam. One of the main tunnels has been cut and is being concreted. An underground machinery court 140x23x36 meters high is under construction.

Thus far 25 kilometers of motor road have been built in preparation for the construction work.

Although the Jablanica project involves about two-thirds as much work as the Dneprostroy, where about 800 engineers are employed, there are only six at Jablanica. One of the latter has undertaken 100 million dinars' worth of work, as compared with the usual figure of 20 million.

POWER FACILITIES IN BOSNIA -- Rad, No 176, 26 Jul 49

On 24 July the hydroelectric power plant on the Student Jadar River at Vlasenica formally began operation. Except for the hydroelectric power plant at Bogatici, this is the only plant of its kind to have been built in Bosnia and Hercegovina since the liberation.

The construction of the Vlasenica plant was begun in 1946 under the direction of the Yugoslav engineer Jaroslav Cernij.

The equipment for the plant was to have been delivered by the Hungarian "Ganc" firm. But delivery was cancelled after the Cominform Resolution. Consequently all the necessary parts, from the smallest screws to the generators, turbines, and pressure pipes, were made in Yugoslav factories, especially "Rade Koncar," "Litostroj," and the Varpa Ironworks. Thus this power plant becomes the first to have been built entirely by Yugoslav resources.

By the end of 1949, the construction of about 220 more large electrical installations is scheduled to be completed. The list includes eight new power plants. For example, the hydroelectric power plant at Mesici in Eastern Bosnia, which will be larger than the Vlasenica plant, is to be finished by 29 November, while in Serbia, the first generator of the first thermoelectric power plant at Veliki Kostolac will be in operation by the end of 1949. In Macedonia, the new thermoelectric power plant in Skopije is near completion. Since the departure of the Czech installation crew, the machinery is being installed by Yugoslav mechanics. The Zrnovci hydroelectric power plant in Macedonia also is to be finished by the end of the year. In Slovenia, the Moste hydroelectric power plant will be in operation this year. The 53-meter-high dam now being built there will be the largest in Yugoslavia. The completion of the Savica hydroelectric power plant also is scheduled for this year. In Montenegro, the construction of the Musovica Rijeka power plant and the thermoelectric power plant in Pljevlja will be finished in 1949.

PLANT BEING BUILT ON THE DRAVA -- Rad, No 176, 26 Jul 49

A large hydroelectric power plant is now being built at Vuzenica on the Drava by the "Gradis" construction enterprise. An area 160 by 65 meters in the river has already been walled off by a concrete dam. Three times in 1949 the Drava has burst the dam and flooded the site so that only the top of the excavator could be seen.

The builders' efforts are now concentrated behind the dam, which has reached a height of 12 meters. Preliminary work is now being done toward concreting the foundations of the power plant and the basin where surplus water will be drained off. The poles for the ropeway, which will transport gravel to the concrete mixer, are being set in concrete, and a gravel separator is being built. The cable railroad is scheduled to be finished in 2 months.

Whereas at the end of last year only 30 workers with one truck and several picks and shovels were at work on the site, there are now three cranes, an excavator, a bulldozer, three narrow-gauge locomotives with enough cars, a concrete pump, and other machinery. Although the labor force at the site is 20 percent below the figure specified in the plan, and though the machinery is old and often breaks down, the work is being done on schedule.

The power plant is due to be in service by the end of the Five-Year Plan. It will be similar in appearance and capacity to the hydroelectric power plant on Mariborski Otok, which was put into operation last year. On the Drava between Maribor and Dravograd a system of hydroelectric power plants, including the plant at Vuzenica, will be built, with a reservoir of 19 million cubic meters of water to regulate the water for all the power plants downstream and prevent great fluctuation in the level of the Drava.

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All the plants will receive water and produce power alike, without fear of sabotage from the Austrian power plants in Koruska, which have held back water when the Yugoslav power plants needed it most, or released it in great volume, hindering construction work at Vuzenica and on Mariborski Otok.

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